5th International Planetary Probe Workshop

June 23 - 29 2007
Bordeaux, France

The 5th International Planetary Probe Workshop was held on June 23 - 29, 2007 in Bordeaux, France. The purpose of the workshop was to bring together the community of planetary scientists, spacecraft engineers, mission designers and planners whose expertise, experience, and interests are in the area of entry probe flight dynamics, and the prediction and measurement of aerodynamic and aerothermodynamic properties of planetary entry vehicles. This year's workshop focused on giant planet probe missions, concepts for probe and aerial platform missions to Mars, Venus and Titan, and technologies for the extreme environments experienced in entry, descent and flight at these targets. In alternate years, the host site for this workshop alternates between the United States and Europe. As such, this forum has helped to build the international planetary probe community. A unique feature of this workshop is an emphasis on U.S. student participation; thereby strengthening the future pool of entry systems engineers and scientists. Funding received from NASA Langley Research Center was used to help defray workshop costs associated with student participation. The funds requested were used to defray workshop costs associated with the participation of 4 students from three different U.S. universities. The funds from this grant were used to defray the following costs associated with student participation in this workshop: registration, short course participation, materials and exhibit space for the student poster session, and travel scholarships for these 4 students competitively selected to present papers at the workshop. The funding was spent as follows:

Student workshop registration fees: $360
Student shortcourse participation: $500
Materials and exhibit space for the student poster session: $650
Travel reimbursement scholarships for 4 competitively selected students to participate in the workshop: $8490

As in past years, students who received travel scholarships were competitively selected by the IPPW student program committee. In addition, an individual account within the School of Aerospace Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology was set up to manage and disburse these funds. Georgia Tech did not place any overhead or administrative charges on this account.

The students who attended this workshop are passionately interested in NASA's aeroassist missions and technology. As such, this workshop represents an excellent means to infuse the NASA pipeline with young engineering and science talent. As an example, five of the twelve young engineers who participated in the third International Planetary Probe Workshop (just two years ago) are now employed at NASA Centers or contractually-funded organizations. As such, this event serves as a bridge between NASA's current professional engineering and science staff and the next generation of explorers, destined to carry out NASA's mission of exploration to the Moon, Mars and beyond.

Principal Investigator: Dr. Robert Braun
David and Andrew Lewis Associate Professor of Space Technology
Montgomery Knight Aerospace Building, Room 321-3
Georgia Institute of Technology
Atlanta, GA 30332-0150

(404) 385-6171
robert.braun@aerospace.gatech.edu